

Marriages in Anguilla

What is Marriage?

Marriage is the state in which a man and a woman are formally united together and with certain legal rights and obligations towards each other.



What is the cost of registration?

Couples are the ones responsible for the payment of their marriage license. It is a fee of **EC\$100.00 (US \$37.20)** worth of stamps that can be bought at the General Post Office in Anguilla. However, if both individuals are not residents of Anguilla or have not resided on the island for fifteen consecutive days is required to pay an additional fee of **EC\$650.00 (US\$241.80)** which is the cost of the marriage license.

What are the requirements for marriage registration?

Concerning the Couple:

- ♥ Names
- ♥ Surnames
- ♥ Respective Ages
- ♥ Address
- ♥ Original Death Certificate (if one of the spouses from the previous marriage is deceased)
- ♥ Status (i.e. Single, Divorced etc)
- ♥ Venue of the wedding
- ♥ Identification (i.e. valid passports, birth certificate, driver's license etc)
- ♥ Name of Marriage Officer
- ♥ Professions
- ♥ Original Marriage Certificate (if one of the individuals was married before)
- ♥ Two Witnesses (if marrying at the Court House)

Where does Registration take Place?

At the Court House Building in the Judicial Department.

When should persons register for marriage?

Both persons interested in getting married in the Court House are required to register at least two days preceding the date of marriage. These marriages take place from Mondays to Fridays (working days) at 10:00am – 3:00pm.

Nonetheless, if persons decide to get married elsewhere "Publication of Banns" must be announced **3 Sundays** i.e. during a public service in the presence of the congregation. Marriage Licenses are valid for **3 months only**.

What are the options to get married?

Persons can get married by:

- ♦ The Magistrate at the Court House **or**
- ♦ A Minister of religion who is a registered Marriage Officer for Anguilla.

How old should a person be in order to get married in Anguilla?

Persons getting married are required to be **18 years of age or older**. Anyone that is under the age of 18 must present a letter of approval (consent) from their parents, guardians or anyone that is responsible for them.

Statistical Information 1998 - 2007

During the past decade it was estimated that individuals aged 25-29 resulted with the highest marriages in Anguilla as depicted in Table 1 below. However, figures have shown that persons aged 60 and over resulted in fewer marriages. Additionally, during 2001 and 2002 the estimated marriage was that for every 1000 persons in Anguilla there were 4 marriages, this was particularly low in comparison to the other years.

Table 1: Number of Individuals Married by Age, Annually

Year	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-35	40-49	50-59	60+	Total
1998	5	21	33	19	26	8	1	113
1999	3	28	39	20	12	3	0	105
2000	4	18	38	23	16	2	1	102
2001	2	18	20	14	20	5	3	82
2002	4	19	20	15	20	7	4	89
2003	5	20	45	17	22	5	6	120
2004	2	27	42	37	21	7	4	140
2005	4	22	30	68	40	8	6	178
2006	5	20	30	49	31	4	2	141
2007	6	43	35	63	28	8	5	188

Table 2: Average Ages for Marriage In Anguilla

Year	Groom	Bride
1998	34.1	32.2
1999	30.8	30.6
2000	32.7	30.5
2001	35.3	32.5
2002	36.9	31.6
2003	34.2	32.2
2004	34.0	31.0
2005	35.9	32.5
2006	36.2	33.5
2007	34.3	31.3

At what age are persons in Anguilla most likely to get married?

For the past decade, there was a slight increase for the ages at which people in Anguilla were getting married, grooms in particular. Also, the majority of people are getting married at the ages of 30–37 years. As shown in Table 2, most brides are 31 years whereas, the grooms are 36 years.